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A new generic name for the Solitary Cacique

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The recent reconstruction of a molecular phylogeny of the Icteridae has changed our view of the evolutionary tree of the caciques and oropendolas (Price & Lanyon 2002, 2004). In particular, the caciques, until now entirely classified within the genus *Cacicus*, do not appear to represent a monophyletic grouping. Three separate lineages within this genus have been identified, some more closely related to oropendolas.

The position of Solitary Cacique *Cacicus solitarius* in the phylogenetic tree is entirely isolated from all other caciques, and closer to *Psarocolius* oropendolas. This result has not changed with the incorporation of new data into the molecular phylogeny (Price & Lanyon 2002, 2004), and therefore appears robust. According to Hellmayr (1937), the type species of *Cacicus* Lacépède is Red-rumped Cacique *Oriolus haemorrhous*, described by Linnaeus in 1766. Red-rumped Caciques are

outwith the clade containing Solitary Cacique, and thus *Cacicus* is an unsuitable generic name for Solitary Cacique.

Prior to the work of Blake (1968), Solitary Cacique was classified in the genus *Archiplanus* Cabanis 1851. This genus was based on differences in bill shape (Hellmayr 1937). However, the type species of *Archiplanus* is Golden-winged Cacique *Cassicus albirostris* Vieillot 1816, based on Azara's no.59, 'yapú negro y amarillo' (Azara 1802). The current scientific name of Golden-winged Cacique is *Cacicus chrysopterus*. In the phylogenetic tree, this species clusters within the main cacique clade, distant from that containing Solitary Cacique (Price & Lanyon 2002, 2004). The generic name *Archiplanus* could be suitable for species in that clade, but not for Solitary Cacique.

Phylogenetic data indicate that Solitary Cacique cannot be placed in *Cacicus* or *Archiplanus*, and therefore no other generic name for the species appears available (Hellmayr 1937). I propose here a new generic name and combination:

Genus *Procacicus* Fraga, with type species *Cassicus solitarius* Vieillot 1816, type locality Paraguay, based on Azara's no.58, 'yapú negro'. The type locality might be further restricted to Asunción, Paraguay, Azara's residence during most of his life in South America. The new genus is currently monotypic. Etymologically, the proposed name is a simple derivative of the current genus name; the Latin particle 'pro' meaning 'substitute', as in 'proconsul'. The new generic name is masculine, agreeing in gender with the specific name.

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